

## WALKING IT OUT – WEEK 8 - GIVING

### Defining giving

Giving is a reflection of the generosity of God, who lives within us. Regular giving helps us to grow in trust and in our relationship with God. We can give our time to others, to the church or to our community or school. We can give our money. Or, we can give our stuff. When we give, we reflect on the amazing blessings of God in our lives. We think of all that we have and are reminded of the generosity of God. This, in itself, is a powerful spiritual practice!

### *“...who gives generously to all”*

Giving. It sounds easy enough. Take something that you have, and hand it over to someone else, perhaps someone who may need it more than you. That’s essentially what giving is. Think of all the gifts you’ve been given over the course of your life. Some are obvious, like the iPod you got for Christmas, or the DVD you received as a birthday present. What about other things that you might not have thought of as gifts. For instance, your home? Your health? Your family? Or, even your life?

Yes, even your life is a gift from God. Think about that. God has given you life and He wants you to live! Not only that, but He wants you to live with Him and for Him. And to make that possible He gave the greatest gift anyone could give – His only son, Jesus. God is generous. It’s part of His character. As we pursue Him, wanting to be more like Him, giving and generosity becomes part of who we are.

*“You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)*

### Questions to talk about at home and with your small group

1. What can we give that are not tangible “things”?
2. What are some creative ways to give (not just things, but of ourselves)?
3. Describe an experience of giving and how you felt afterwards.
4. Describe a time when someone gave something to you.

### Prayer

*Father, help me to see all the many gifts you’ve given to me. Help me to recognize all that I have been blessed with. And, help me to become someone who, like you, gives generously. Lord, create opportunities where I can give. Show me people in need, who I can bless. And give me more, so that I can give more. Amen*

### Additional verses for study

*Leviticus 19:9-10; Proverbs 14:21, 19:17, 22:9; Isaiah 58:10-11; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Hebrews 6:10*

### Weekly challenge

Listen to the people around you, your co-workers or fellow students; your family or friends. Find out what someone needs. It could be money, food, ice cream, a CD... anything. You don’t necessarily need to spend money. Perhaps you have something that they need, that you’re not really using. Then, bless them. It’s even more rewarding when you do it anonymously.

### If you have children

Help your child (children) pick out a toy or two and a couple of outfits that are good shape to donate to Share and Care. Allow them to help you clean (if needed) and prepare them for donation. Then, as a family, take the items to Share and care and allow your children to give them away.

### Kids’ activities

Activity sheets based on giving thanks and generosity.

